

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-22 were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1, 11, 20 and 22 were amended. Accordingly, claims 1-22 remain at issue in the above-identified application.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Musgrave et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,505,193) in view of *Khidekel et al.* (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0027527). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As amended, independent claims 1, 11, 20 and 22 each recite "generating a verification certificate based on an identifier of said requesting person when person authentication is established" and "updating information indicating a history of issuing verification certificates." Applicants submit that neither *Musgrave* nor *Khidekel* teach or even suggest generating a verification certificate based on an identifier of said requesting person when person authentication is established, nor updating information indicating a history of issuing verification certificates. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 11, 20 and 22, as well as dependent claims 2-10, 12-19, and 21, are allowable.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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